

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. In the March 28, 2006 non-final office action, the Examiner Rejected Claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent Number 4,916,642 by Kaiser et al. (hereinafter "Kaiser").

II The Rejection of Claims 1-18 in view of Kaiser is in Error

1. The Present Invention

Fundamentally, the present invention relates to more efficient means of implementing block programming in an industrial controller. As noted in page two of the specification, block programming is done generally through drawings versus some programming language such as C or basic. The controller is provided with a block execution engine which selectively executes block programs only when the block execution engine determines there is a new input value. In this way the controller may be provided with a less powerful and/or expensive processor since fewer blocks have to be executed by the controller.

2. Kaiser

Fundamentally, Kaiser does not suggest or disclose any type of industrial controller which implements block programming. Further, the claims require the use of some form of block execution engine which selectively executes block programs only when the block execution engine determines there is a new input value. This limitation is clearly missing in the disclosure as discussed in col. 11, lines 11-48 of Kaiser which only discloses that a user, not some form of block execution engine, can select stage boundaries and then equipment to be assigned to each stage. There is no suggestion of determining whether or not


there is a new input value in this section as the examiner indicated in her office action. Accordingly, the examiner is respectfully requested to withdrawn her rejection of claims 1-18.

Conclusion

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted the applicants have made a patentable contribution to the art. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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